The Peace That Comes from Walking in Obedience to Christ

This post is a continuation of the study "The Kingdom of God: a Kingdom of righteousness"

Another precious thing found in the Kingdom of God is the peace and rest that reigns within it. Dictionary definition: Absence of disturbances, conflicts, strife; harmony, reconciliation, understanding. To break the peace = to come into conflict with someone.

The peaceful Kingdom of Christ has often been misunderstood, even by those who claim to be believers. Very few truly understand, accept, and live according to this heavenly standard.

Many do not see that the Lord of peace came to bring to earth the peace that governs in the heavenly Kingdom, peace that is found on the perfect way of God (To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace Luke 1:79).

Many do not notice that the Gospel of the Kingdom is, in fact, the Gospel of peace (The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ Acts 10:36. Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means 2 Thessalonians 3:16. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

When the Lord Jesus says, Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth, He tells us that the peace which is in heaven must also be on earth among those who belong to Him (Glory to God... and on earth peace, good will toward men Luke 2:14. Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest Luke 19:38).

It is extremely important to understand that the law of peace which governs in the heavenly Kingdom also governs on earth among those who belong to it (And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more Isaiah 2:4).

All citizens born of God must keep this law. Therefore, they must no longer learn war or opposition, but live in perfect peace with one another, be gentle, easily persuaded, bless one another, not speak evil, not be angry, not quarrel, not be hostile, not judge, not oppose their fellow men, and not do harm to anyone.

All who have chosen to keep their feet on the path of peace do not initiate or enter into conflicts. They do not resist in order to seek justice for themselves (But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloke also Matthew 5:39.40).

When interacting with citizens of the kingdom of darkness, conflict situations may arise. To resolve these issues and to maintain peace as much as it depends on them, they apply the law of the Kingdom from above, which takes precedence over the law of the lower kingdom (If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men Romans 12:18. Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it 1 Peter 3:11).

When they are wronged, in order to preserve the peace from above, they have only one option: to address their Master and then joyfully submit to His decision. They do not rely on the police, the courts, or other institutions available to the citizens of the other kingdom (Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously 1 Peter 2:23).

This law of peace will bring troubles and suffering for those who enter the Kingdom of God. When conflict is initiated by those in the world, the attitude of non-resistance shown by the believer will often result in loss and humiliation. Many times, they will be mocked and humiliated even by members of their own household.

In order not to disturb the peace and rest of heart to which they have been called, they will follow the example of their Lord (For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps 1 Peter 2:21. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord Hebrews 12:14).

This peace guards their hearts and minds in Christ. They will do nothing that would disturb their heart or spoil its rest (And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus Philippians 4:7).

The only things they have at their disposal when persecuted are long-suffering and fleeing (But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another Matthew 10:23).

Peace and rest are the result of the heart’s attitude—of living in righteousness, of renouncing opposition, anger, and judgment—and this is achieved by keeping the teachings of Christ (For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace Romans 8:6. If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the

things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes Luke 19:42).

To reach the rest and peace of the Kingdom of God, we must apply the teaching brought from heaven by the Lord Jesus (Judge not, that ye be not judged. Condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned. If someone compels you to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away. If someone sues you to take away your coat, let him have your cloak also. If someone smites you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also Matthew 5:39–42. Give to every man that asketh of thee Luke 6:30).

Even if we are innocent, opposition produces conflict, not peace, and may give the other person an occasion to be troubled, to become angry, or in other words, to sin (Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way Romans 14:13. It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come Luke 17:1).

In practice, the one who brings the occasion to sin is doing the work of Satan, which is very serious in the eyes of God. It would be better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea, than that he should cause one to stumble (Luke 17:2).

We must be attentive in every conflictual situation and be peacemakers. If we are at peace, we must do everything that depends on us to help the other person also be at peace (If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men Romans 12:18).

Those who belong to the Kingdom from above pursue the peace that comes from walking after the things above (For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace Romans 8:6. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God Matthew 5:9).

The Lord Jesus, as the representative of the Kingdom of God, was the first to keep this teaching of non-resistance and of preserving peace in an absolute way, and He taught us to live as He lived (If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me Luke 9:23. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked 1 John 2:6).

We can observe the Lord’s attitude when He was asked to pay the temple tax. Although He was not obligated to pay it, He did everything within His power to avoid conflict or disturbance, so as not to give others an occasion to sin (What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children,

or of strangers? Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free. Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea... Matthew 17:24–27)

When He was captured to be put to death, He did not resist, nor did He escalate the conflict. He allowed Himself to be led as a lamb to the slaughter (He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth Isaiah 53:7).

The Lord had a heart full of peace and rest, which was not troubled by the appearance of conflict. His lack of resistance shows us how the citizens of the Kingdom of Christ ought to be (Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him Matthew 26:50)

On the opposite side, we see the turmoil and anger present in His disciple Peter. He resisted and actively participated in the conflict. The unrest manifested in Peter is characteristic of the nature of the kingdom of darkness (We were by nature the children of wrath, even as others Ephesians 2:3. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked Isaiah 57:21).

As citizens of the Kingdom, the natural instinct to resist must be crucified in order to allow peace and rest to enter our souls (Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; and ye shall find rest unto your souls Matthew 11:29).

Personal Examination:

– Do you pursue peace with all men, as a treasure of great value?

– If a conflict arises, can you say as the Lord Jesus said: Friend, do what you came for?

– Do you remain in peace like the Lord Jesus, or are you troubled like Peter? (And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus Philippians 4:7)

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "The New Birth", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.